Suresh Babu

VP for Sustainable Food Systems

Economic Researcher with 25+ experience in applied policy research, teaching, policy advice, and partnership development.

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Linkedin

Contact

36 Years of experience

Professional Bio:

Dr. Suresh Babu draws on his interdisciplinary background with formal training in agriculture, environmental economics, data analytics, and public policy to inform his work in climate solutions, policy, and action. Dr. Babu has over three decades of policy research and implementation experience in sustainable food and natural resource systems in the Global South. He has published 28 books and edited volumes, 129 refereed journal articles, 99 chapters in books and conference proceedings, and many working papers and pieces in popular press. An effective policy communicator, his food crisis management and higher education contributions in Africa resulted in two US Congressional Testimonies.

As a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute

Skills & Expertise:

Program/Project Management, Policy Development, Localization / Capacity Strengthening, Humanitarian Assistance, MEL, Climate & Resilience, Private Sector Engagement, Agriculture & Food Security, Strategic Planning, Digital Development / ICT4D

Sectors of Work:

International Development, Economic Growth, Climate & Environment, Emergency Relief, Technology & Innovation, Trade & Investment, Democracy & Governance

Languages Spoken:

English, Tamil, Telugu, Chichewa, Hindi

(IFPRI), he recently served as the Asia Lead for the USAID's Comprehensive Action for Climate Initiative (CACCI) which engaged with and strengthened climate policy systems in 12 countries in Asia. Dr. Babu also led IFPRI's partnership with USAID's Feed the Future - Food Security Policy Innovation Lab (PRCI), which strengthened food policy think tanks and policy systems in 14 countries in Asia and Africa. Similar multicounty programs have been the hallmark of his research, capacity development, and policy communications career at IFPRI. Over the past 33 years at IFPRI, Dr. Babu established IFPRI's Learning Program and implemented institutional and human capacity strengthening for higher education, research, extension, and policy systems in more than 40 countries in the Global North and South. He has strengthened the capacity of more than 6,000 mid-career professionals, policy researchers, analysts, and advisors through learning programs and mentorship in food, nutrition, agricultural, and natural resource policy analysis and policy communications. Dr. Babu served as a Coordinating Lead Author of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He currently serves as the Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa and holds or held honorary/visiting professorships at the Kasetsart University, Thailand, University College, Cork, Ireland, the Chinese Academy of Rural Development, Zhejiang University, and Indira Gandhi National Open University, India.

He has been quoted, profiled or interviewed in popular press including the Time Magazine, New York Times, St Louis Post Dispatch, The Reuters, IPS News Service, AllAfrica.com, Times of India, Economic Times, Financial Express, Business Standard,

The Hindu, South African Farmer, BBC, South African Broadcasting Corporation
(SABC), Pakistan Public Television, Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, Indian National
Television, and All India Radio.
Dr. Babu began his post-doctoral career as a Research Economist, Cornell University
and outposted as a Senior Food Policy Advisor to the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture,
where he developed a national-level Food and Nutrition Information System that helped
to prevent famine and starvation. He also served as an Evaluation Economist for

UNICEF-Malawi designing decentralized food security and nutrition intervention
programs.
Dr. Babu holds MS and PhD degrees in Economics from Iowa State University.

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